

THE
Thurrock Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and the Public Analyst

for the year 1970



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30186912>

THE
Thurrock Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and the Public Analyst

for the year 1970

GRAYS
HIGGINS LTD., PRINTING CONTRACTORS
1971

CONTENTS

	Page
Members of the Public Health Committee	3
Staff of the Public Health Department	4, 5
SECTION "A"—	
Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area	6
SECTION "B"—	
General Provision of Health Services for the Area	8
SECTION "C"—	
Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Other Notifiable diseases	18
SECTION "D"—	
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	26
SECTION "E"—	
Housing	39
SECTION "F"—	
Factories Acts, 1937—1961	44
SECTION "G"—	
Shops and Offices	46
SECTION "H"—	
Inspection and Supervision of Food (including report of Public Analyst)	51

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1970)

Chairman: M. B. JONES

Leading Councillor: Mrs. E. A. WHALLEY

Councillors: A. F. BARNES

A. A. W. BENNETT

M. J. BIBBY

D. DESMEDT, A.M.B.I.M., M.I.W.M.

A. P. FITZMAURICE

Mrs. E. M. H. FROST

J. I. PURDIE

J. W. TAYLOR

E. N. VELLACOTT

Mrs. D. J. WRIGHT

URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

T. D. BLOTT, B.SC., M.B., B.S.(DUR.), D.P.H., Barrister at Law
The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer for the
Thurrock Division of the County of Essex

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. P. MERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

D. G. STRIPP, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Senior Public Health Inspectors:

M. H. YOUNG (1, 2, 3) (Improvements Officer)

T. B. NUTTALL, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Imported Foods)

Public Health Inspectors :

A. G. BRIMBLE (1, 2)

L. H. ASH (1, 2)

G. R. DOVEY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

J. FOSTER (1, 2, 3)

J. W. MALTON (4)

E. PHILBIN (1, 2)

D. J. GADSBY (3, 4) (Appointed June, 1970)

R. ALBON (4) (Appointed July, 1970)

(1) Indicates Certificate: R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Jt.Bd.

(2) Indicates Certificate: Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

(3) Indicates Certificate: Smoke Inspection.

(4) Diploma: Public Health Inspectors' Education Board.

Public Analyst :

THOS. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

Veterinary Officer (Part-time)

E. DIXON, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department :

Mrs. P. M. HARLEY

Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

S. V. EDWARDS

Trainee Public Health Inspectors :

T. LEVER, G. POYTON

Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department

J. P. GOODRICK (Resigned August, 1970)

Mrs. E. BROWNE, Mrs. E. CLAYDEN, Mrs. H. M. WARD

Miss J. S. HALL (Appointed November, 1970)

Rodent Officer: M. KNIGHT

Rodent Operatives:

B. A. BEAUMONT, E. E. LOCK

Mortuary Attendants: E. C. WHITBREAD, R. W. LENNIE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present, herewith, my sixth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1970.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year has been low generally, with the exception of an epidemic of measles and an increase in incidence of infective hepatitis. It had been hoped that the periodic epidemics of measles were a thing of the past but irregularity in the supply of vaccine has led to a disappointing immunisation rate against this disease, and until a larger proportion of young children are immunised it would appear that these epidemics will recur. The continued incidence of infective hepatitis suggests that we have not yet solved the problem of breaking the infective cycle although during the year use of clinical tests in closed institutions was of some value.

The pattern of the Health and Social Services is changing rapidly in Thurrock ahead of legislation and more and more people are coming to rely on their family doctor for services, such as smallpox vaccination, which were previously carried out in local clinics, and local hospitals more and more are being drawn into the domiciliary field where, to obtain the best results, it is necessary to work very closely with the Social Services and the local Health Authority. These trends lead to the hope that future legislation can be implemented without any great disruption in the area.

Health publicity leaves something to be desired and more will have to be done to stress the need for immunisation and vaccination against diseases such as smallpox and diphtheria. I feel the computer has a major role to play in this field.

I would like once again to express my debt to my Chairman and to the Chief Public Health Inspector of the Thurrock Council. I have also received encouraging support from the Members of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. D. BLOTT, *Medical Officer of Health.*

Public Health Department, 34 Cresthill Avenue, Grays, Essex.
Telephone: Grays Thurrock 4641/4.

SECTION "A"

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-Year 1970)	127,870
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books as at 31.12.70)	38,840
Rateable Value (at 31.3.70)	£8,527,271
Product of a 1d. Rate (at 31.3.70)	£35,192

The Urban District of Thurrock stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The area adjoining the river is industrial and contains two of the chief centres of population — Grays and Tilbury.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement, margarine, cardboard, footwear, detergents, nitric acid and chemical fertilisers. In addition there are the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven, the oil storage undertakings at Thames Haven, Grays and Purfleet and the docks at Tilbury.

Inland, the principal occupation is agriculture and the district includes many market gardens and dairy farms, although the number of dairy farms seems to be diminishing as the years go on.

A large number of the inhabitants travel daily to work in London.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Thurrock Urban District	England and Wales
Live Births:		
Number—(1,102 Males, 1,039 Females) ...	2,141	784,482
Rate per 1,000 estimated } (Crude) ...	16.7	16.0
Mid-Year Home Population } (Adjusted) ...	16.5	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of total Live Births	6	8

DEATHS

Thurrock
Urban District England
and Wales

Total Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):

Number—(21 Males, 12 Females) ... 33 14,269

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 15 18

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate

Live Births ... 15 17

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti-

mate Live Births ... 23 26

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four
weeks) (12 Males, 5 Females) per 1,000

total Live Births ... 8 12

Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under
one week) (10 Males, 5 Females) per 1,000

total Live Births ... 7 11

Perinatal mortality rate (still births and
deaths under one week combined) per

1,000 total Live and Stillbirths ... 18 23

All Causes:

Number—(525 Males, 439 Females) ... 964 575,208

Death rate per 1,000 estimated } (Crude) 7.5 11.7

Mid-Year Home population } (Adjusted) 10.7 11.7

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff of the Public Health Department has been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in the past years by the N.E. Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Southend-on-Sea where all examinations of milk, water, ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological examination of milk is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, London Road, Chelmsford. Virus investigations are also carried out by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford. These Public Health Laboratories are administered by the Medical Research Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

	Thurrock Station	Corringham Station
Ambulance Vehicles ...	—	—
Dual Purpose Vehicles ...	2	1
Sitting Case Vehicles ...	3	—
Total Mileage ...	180,122	56,153
Stretcher Cases Conveyed	2,097	756
Other Cases Conveyed ...	35,454	4,553
Total Cases Conveyed ...	37,551	5,309
Emergency Cases ...	2,245	843

MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Voluntary Services have a limited distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority made an annual grant of £710 towards this service. I am indebted to Mrs. K. Smith, Centre Organiser, for the following information.

Grays Area: —

No. of meals distributed ...	7,384
Approximate mileage ...	4,300

Stanford-le-Hope Area :—

No. of meals distributed ...	5,966
Approximate mileage ...	3,560

Aveley Area :—

No. of meals distributed ...	4,546
Approximate mileage ...	2,225

Meals are delivered in Grays, Aveley and Stanford-le-Hope two days per week.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

PROVISION OF NURSING APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

On application, articles of equipment for the patients in their homes are supplied. The main depot for distribution of articles of equipment is now at the Health Area Office, 34 Cresthill Avenue, Grays. The equipment issued on loan for the sick or handicapped does not include specialist equipment for the permanently disabled.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

CLINIC PREMISES.

On the following pages will be found a list of the clinics serving Thurrock which includes the Health Centre.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Ante-natal Clinic sessions were held during 1970 in six of the premises. The Midwives sessions are held mainly for booking patients for home confinements.

CHILD HEALTH

There are 14 Centres in Thurrock where Child Health Sessions are held at which mothers attend to discuss their problems with the Health Visitors and Medical Officers.

IMMIGRANT FAMILIES.

Over the past two years there has been a steady increase in the Pakistani immigrant population in Grays and in South Stifford in particular. Communication with these families has been difficult. The wives speak little if any English and the Health Visitors have found successful visiting impossible, often being unable to detect precisely how many families are living in one house and to whom the numerous children belong. Many of the husbands do speak English but evening visits have not proved effective as these Pakistanis seem to work long hours and probably work overtime regularly. The Medical Officer experiences similar language prob-

lems at the Child Health sessions. It is noted that when these families are sent written appointments for prophylaxis for example, their attendance is fairly good no doubt because the husbands read the letters and instruct their wives accordingly.

It was decided, therefore, to start a Child Health session, run initially once a month by Dr. Makhdum, at Grays Park Clinic, especially for Pakistanis. The children are seen by appointment. This has proved so successful that the sessions have now been increased to two a month. Some interesting facts have come to light, one mother kept her three children under 5 on National Dried Milk only, withholding all solids. In another family the little girls were kept on National Dried Milk while the boy was allowed a meal containing some protein (sausages and fish fingers) twice a week.

These special sessions do not preclude attendance at the normal Child Health sessions.

It would be useful if instruction in English language for the mothers could be combined with the special sessions but it is not thought they are ready for this yet. Some of them have started to go out to work, mostly in a local pickle factory, and so may eventually acquire some English. Others appear to prefer to live within their own small circle and are content to let their menfolk be their spokesmen.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS AND NUTRIENTS.

The Ministry welfare foods and proprietary brands of nutrients were distributed at the Child Health sessions and, in addition, so far as Ministry of Food items are concerned, we are indebted to the many voluntary distributors in the area who continue to provide a service for the mothers who find it difficult to reach one of our Child Health Clinics.

DAY NURSERIES.

The two Day Nurseries in this area, one at Palmer's Avenue in Grays and the other in London Road, West Thurrock, accept children mainly in the three priority groups as laid down by the Health Committee. The maintenance of a good average attendance at these Nurseries has always been a problem to us. The attendances for 1970 are given below, together with previous years in brackets :—

	1967	1968	1969	1970
March Quarter	(3506)	(3530)	(3014)	2729
June Quarter	(3745)	(3167)	(2994)	3151
September Quarter	(3502)	(3107)	(2780)	2851
December Quarter	(3447)	(2944)	(3088)	3332
Total	(14200)	(12747)	(11876)	12063

As this will be the last occasion when I shall mention the Day Nursery Service in this area in my Annual Report, it may be pertinent to add we have always considered the Nurseries here have provided a good service to the community especially in the case of those handicapped children we were able to accept who doubtless benefit from the care and attention they receive from the staff and the companionship of other children. It was particularly gratifying to see the little girl at Christmastime who had been admitted during March with a diagnosis of spastic diplegia making progress amongst the other children.

Undoubtedly the establishment of No. 2 at West Thurrock as a Training Nursery and the small building improvements carried out on a limited budget have been worthwhile. One of our Students was top of her year for the initial examination at Havering Technical College!

I think it unfair to place too much emphasis on the financial fetish of relating running costs to average attendance which penalises those Nurseries having a fair intake of socio-economic, problem and medical cases, who by their very nature invariably have a poor attendance record.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICES.

Our present Domiciliary Midwifery establishment consists of 14 full-time Midwives in addition to 1 full-time Relief Midwife and 1 full-time District Nurse/Midwife.

The latter 2 Midwives are primarily concerned with the care of hospital discharged mothers and babies.

During the year 1970, Domiciliary Midwives attended 667 home deliveries and a total of 861 mothers were discharged from hospital to the care of the Domiciliary Midwives during this period.

In addition, Domiciliary Midwives undertook a total of 19,464 home visits during 1970 and attended 1,559 Ante-Natal Clinic sessions during this year.

TRAINING OF STUDENT MIDWIVES.

A total of 46 Student/Midwives have completed their district training in this area and a further 4 Student/Midwives commenced their 3 months' district training with us as from 1st December, 1970, the present term ended on 28th February, 1971.

DELEGATION SCHEME FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES AND HOME NURSES TO GENERAL PRACTITIONER GROUP PRACTICES.

In the case of the full-time Domiciliary Midwives (with the exception of the 2 relief Midwives), our delegation scheme is at present 100%, and thanks to this scheme, the work of the Domiciliary Midwifery Service has more than justified itself to date.

Delegation of the district nursing staff is also encouraged wherever possible and 2 of our District Nursing Sisters are attending surgery clinic sessions on a bi-weekly basis with satisfactory results.

The fairly recent employment of 3 District Auxiliaries as 'bath attendants' to assist the District Nursing Sisters in the Stanford-le-Hope, Chadwell/Tilbury and South Ockendon/Aveley areas has proved of enormous benefit both to our Service as a whole and to the patients who are receiving this treatment.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948 (as amended).

The number of persons and premises registered under the Act at the end of 1970 was as follows:—

No. of persons registered	44
No. of premises registered	27

At the end of the year there were 829 children being cared for. The Superintendent Health Visitor has, in each case, made the initial inspection so that the standards laid down by the County Council are maintained. The Health Visitors are required periodically to visit each of the Child Minders or premises in their areas. We are indebted to the Chief Fire Officer for his assistance in making an inspection to ascertain the need for fire precautions.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER CARE

RECUPERATIVE HOLIDAYS.

28 persons went away on recuperative holidays where either general practitioners and/or hospital consultants so recommended.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGICAL SMEAR TESTS.

We continue to hold sessions at certain Health Services Clinics in Thurrock for the taking of cervical cytological smears. 992 first tests and 384 repeat tests being carried out, only one of which was found to be positive. It is disappointing that in spite of advertising in the press, by display of posters and circulating of small leaflets we do not seem to be reaching those women who may be 'at risk.'

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

We continue, on the advice of the Chest Physician, to provide extra nourishment in the form of free milk; 74 patients receiving this service at the end of 1970, 15 new cases having been recommended during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Visitors made 423 visits during the year and there were also 495 first examinations of contacts and 620 subsequent examinations of contacts.

CHIROPODY.

Our service in this connection continues to be limited in scope by the shortage of qualified staff and we were further handicapped by the unfortunate accident to our full-time Chiropodist, Mr. Morris, whilst on duty. Mrs. J. King, who undertook 2/3 sessions in South Ockendon, resigned in December, 1970. The number of treatments carried out during the year were 2,794 at clinics, 1,896 domiciliary and we continued to provide a service at Bennett Lodge and Leatherland Lodge where 309 treatments were carried out.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Education in health matters has been practised informally by the Thurrock Health Visitors in their day to day work in the homes, clinics and schools. On a more formal basis displays on health subjects have been put on at the purpose built clinics and the Aveley Health Centre and over 100 films have been shown throughout the area. Talks and lectures have been given at Orsett, Billericay and Harold Wood Hospitals, Thurrock Technical College, Mothers' Clubs, Women's Associations, Old Aged Pensioners' Clubs and various Youth Clubs. Two Health Visitors have prepared students for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Classes on education for childbirth have been held throughout the area and where the premises have been suitable "Fathers' Classes" have continued.

An "over 40" exercise course is in operation at Grays North Clinic.

In addition to arranging public health practical experience for student nurses and student Health Visitors, the Health Visitors have catered for the needs in this field of students from many other disciplines.

The Health Department has been directly involved in Health Education programmes in 14 out of the 16 Secondary Schools in Thurrock. In some schools Health Visitors have undertaken a course on Personal Health and Growth, in others, specialist subjects, e.g., drugs, smoking, sex, venereal disease, have been dealt with by myself or the Health Visiting Staff as part of a wider Sociology Course.

Some schools have found it useful to invite us to Parent/Teachers' meetings so that the parents are able to see the films which will be shown to their children. These sessions have been followed by lively discussions and have appeared to be appreciated.

I have not participated in teaching the pre-pubertal children, although a few Heads of Primary Schools have asked for help from the Health Visitors to teach to this age group from time to time.

There is no uniform pattern of Health Education in Thurrock, but we have tried as far as possible to meet the particular requirements of individual schools.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The number of hours help provided to beneficiaries in their homes is still dependent somewhat on the financial provision, although, of course, as far as is known, help is always provided where needed, in spite of this restriction. In 1969 the total number of hours worked by the Home Helps was 159,689 whereas in 1970 the total number of hours was 151,032. The number of cases provided with help totalled 1,279 (1,309 in 1969).

SCHOOL POPULATION.

The school population for Thurrock including Special Schools at the end of the year was 22,695.

SPEECH THERAPY.

We are still very concerned with the position with regard to Speech Therapy in the Division. We continue to be indebted to Mrs. P. Tooley who travels from London to give us three worthwhile sessions. Naturally, the long waiting list increases but efforts to recruit further staff are all to no avail.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

1,114 school children received routine B.C.G. Vaccinations during the year.

THURROCK HEALTH AREA CLINICS

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Aveley	Health Services Clinic Hall Lane, Aveley	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinics Preparation for Childbirth Classes
	The Health Centre, Darenth Lane, South Ockendon	Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinics Family Planning (run by Family Planning Assoc.)

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Bulphan	Village Hall, Bulphan	Child Health Chiropody
Chadwell-St.-Mary	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-St.-Mary	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
Corringham	Health Services Clinic, Giffords Cross Road, Corringham	Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Geriatric Clinic Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic Family Planning (run by Family Planning Assoc.)
East Tilbury	"Rheidovale," Princess Margaret Rd. East Tilbury	Child Health Preparation for Childbirth Classes
Fobbing	Gardner Hall	Child Health (closing January, 1971)
Grays	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays	Audiometry Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Midwives' Ante-natal Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic Health Session for Immigrant Families
	Health Services Clinic, Long Lane, Grays	Ante-natal Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody Preparation for Childbirth Classes Post-natal Exercise Classes School Clinic Speech Therapy
	Glasson House Clinic, Off High Street, Grays (Removing to 2 Palmer's Avenue in January, 1971)	Chiropody Dental Ophthalmology Orthoptic

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinic
Linford	Village Hall, Linford	Post-natal Exercise Classes
Orsett	Church Hall, High Road, Orsett	Child Health
Purfleet and	Health Services Clinic,	Child Health
West Thurrock	London Road, West Thurrock	Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinic
South Ockendon	Health Services Clinic 107 South Road, South Ockendon	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
Stanford-le-Hope	Health Services Clinic, Wharf Road, Stanford-le-Hope	Ante-natal Child Health Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Cervical Cytology Mothers' Club Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic
Tilbury	Health Services Clinic, London Road, Tilbury	Audiology Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Preparation for Childbirth Classes School Clinic Health Seminars for Mothers

HOUSING.

The Council have 12,306 Council Houses and in addition the former London County Council, East Ham Borough Council and West Ham Borough Council have built estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 4,507 upon the waiting list for houses. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health recommends extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year under review 451 cases were investigated and points awarded.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF MANUAL STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's Service and deals with medical questions arising in regard to examinations as to the fitness of an employee to remain in the Council's Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The South Essex Crematorium situated over the boundary of the district at Corbets Tey is carried on with the London Borough of Havering. The Medical Officers of Health of the constituent authorities act as Medical Referees and during the year the remains of 2,563 persons were disposed of.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks, into which an enormous amount of shipping arrives and an Assistant Medical Officer of the Essex County Health Service working in the Thurrock district acts as Boarding Officer.

PUBLIC MORTUARY SERVICE.

258 deaths were reported to H.M. Coroner, Dr. Charles Clark. The total number of inquests held was 47 after a post-mortem in each case. There were 21 road accidents, 3 industrial accidents, 23 other causes.

SECTION "C"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE		Notified	Confirmed	Hospitals	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	24	24	—	—
Dysentery	...	5	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	104	104	5	—
Whooping Cough	...	36	36	1	—
Measles	...	967	967	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	100	—	8	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	3	3	3	—
Encephalitis	...	1	1	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO
AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. over	Age unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	3	4	16	1	—	—	—	24
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	1	7	26	24	24	22	—	104
Dysentery ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	5
Whooping Cough ...	7	7	10	11	—	—	1	—	36
Measles ...	52	242	236	411	13	7	3	3	967
Food Poisoning ...	3	10	4	9	7	25	42	—	100
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

FOOD POISONING, &c.

Faecal specimens are taken from each case of food poisoning or dysentery where food handlers are involved, either as patients or contacts. If the result is positive three negative specimens must be obtained before the patient or contact is permitted to engage in the handling of food. Specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff-on-Sea.

During the year 4 persons were excluded from work.

The following table shows the number of faecal specimens or throat swabs submitted by the department during the year:

Taken From	Total	Negative	Positive			
			Staph. Aureus	Shig. Sonnei	Sal. Typhi- murium	Sal. Panama
Food Handlers	9	9	—	—	—	—
Non-Food Handlers	33	31	—	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-4 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-19 „	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 „	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 „	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
45-54 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 „	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-74 „	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75 up- wards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	2	1	3	1	—	—	—

VENEREAL DISEASES

Year ending 31st December, 1970

SPECIAL CLINIC, TILBURY, ESSEX

ANNUAL RETURN OF MALE NEW CASES FOR 1970

Local Health Authority area of residence of patient	Number of new cases in the year				
	Totals all venereal conditions	Syphilis		Gonor- rhea	Other venereal conditions
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Seamen	11	9	2		
Seamen	51			51	
Local	19			19	
Other Areas	7			7	
Seamen	352				352
Local	160				160
Other Areas	19				19
Total	619	9	2	77	531

VENEREAL DISEASES

Year ending 31st December, 1970

SPECIAL CLINIC, TILBURY, ESSEX

ANNUAL RETURN OF FEMALE NEW CASES FOR 1970

Local Health Authority area of residence of patient	Number of new cases in the year				
	Totals all venereal conditions	Syphilis		Gonor- rhea	Other venereal conditions
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Local	1		1		
Local	16			16	
Other Areas	6			6	
Local	115				115
Other Areas	2				2
Totals	140	—	1	22	117

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION "D"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	16
(b) From Wells, etc.	...	...	...	1

No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	5
(b) From Wells	...	...	...	Nil

All samples from the public mains were satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

The one bacteriological sample from the well showed the presence of coliforms and faecal coli. The house served by this well has been the subject of a demolition order and the tenant rehoused.

No. of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct	...	...	38,814
Estimated population served	...	...	127,773
No. of houses supplied from public water mains supplied by standpipes	...	...	20
Estimated population served	...	...	70
No. of houses served by wells or stored rainwater	...	...	6
Estimated population served	...	...	27

Those properties supplied by standpipes refer to premises forming part of the Dunton Hills Estate. The laying of water mains would be very expensive and moreover, it is thought that some of the land will revert to agriculture in the not too distant future.

The six houses supplied by wells are situated in the more remote rural portion of the area where the cost of providing a mains supply is prohibitive. In addition there is one well at one of the oil refineries, the water from which is used for drinking and domestic purposes.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS.

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	17.98 ins.
Number of days on which rain fell	79
Heaviest rainfall on any one day (August 2nd)	1.80 ins.
No. of hours of sunshine	1,250

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Many areas in Thurrock still remain to be put on main drainage but every year some advancement however small is made. The Orsett Village Sewerage Scheme, which was commenced in 1969 was completed in 1970 and a start has been made on the extensions to the Stanford-le-Hope Sewage Disposal Works and the Little Thurrock Main Surface Water Sewer.

The following schemes await Ministry Approval and some of these have been submitted for a considerable time:—

Marsh Farm 1st Stage.

Southern Sewerage Scheme.

Bulphan Sewerage Scheme.

Corringham High Level Sewer.

Orsett Heath Sewerage Scheme.

North Fobbing Sewerage Scheme.

It is to be hoped that approvals will be forthcoming in the ensuing year. In this modern age there are too many houses in the area served by cesspools, which is an unsatisfactory method of drainage particularly in those areas with a high water table.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 823 cesspools and 185 pail closets in the area at the close of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The bulk refuse containers which were installed in 1969 and which gave rise to some complaint do not appear to have given as much offence during the year under review. The situation has been improved at one of the sites by the provision of a concrete base and walls.

REFUSE TIPS.

The operation of refuse tips in the area still gives rise to complaint from residents in adjoining properties. I am of the opinion that however stringent the conditions imposed on the operations some nuisance is bound to arise from time to time.

The strike of the refuse collectors in the London area subsequently had repercussions in Thurrock. When normal working began again in London large quantities of decomposing refuse which had to be disposed of was brought to the Little Belhus refuse tip. There were complaints of rats and fly infestation and smell. The situation was finally resolved but not until the local residents had suffered a great deal of inconvenience.

Every year new refuse tips are begun in the area. It is one of the burdens which the County of Essex has to bear that it must face up to being a repository for the refuse of surrounding areas.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are within the area, ten swimming baths as follows:--

Public	....	....	....	....	....	1
Private	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	7

The total number of samples taken during the year was 52. Two were unsatisfactory due to the swimming baths being out of use and the plant shut off.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

For many years these premises provided accommodation for men of limited means. The lodging house provided a service despite its many disadvantages. The Grays South Development has now resulted in its demolition.

AIR POLLUTION.

Thurrock probably has more varied problems in the sphere of air pollution than any other district in Essex.

A reference to the list of scheduled works under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector will show the variety of sources of pollution.

The area which suffers the greatest pollution is West Thurrock in which are situated the cement producing industries. However, although this industry must bear the blame for much of the deposited dust it should not be forgotten that there are other sources. The large power stations are not to be forgotten in this matter and it is my opinion that the conversion to gas of the power station at West Thurrock when it takes place will have the effect of improving conditions in the area.

A step forward was taken in the improvement of relations with the cement industry when a Liaison Committee was formed consisting of representatives from the industry, councillors, officers, and residents of West Thurrock. Extensive improvements at Tunnel Works in particular are proposed and there is reason to believe that the effects will be felt during 1971.

ALKALI, ETC. WORKS.

The following works are now under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector who works very closely with the officers of the Council.

Cement Production	...	...	...	...	3
Synthetic Detergent Plant (bisulphite section)					1
Oil Refining, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Electricity Production		...	...	...	3
Nitric Acid Production		...	...	...	2
Recovery of non-ferrous Metals			...	...	1
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	2
Chemical Manure	...	...	...	...	1
Acid Sludge	...	...	...	...	1

INSTALLATION OF FURNACES AND CHIMNEYS.

(1) No. of notifications of construction of new furnaces	...	14
(a) Coal Fired	... ..	Nil
(b) Oil Fired	... ..	13
(c) Gas Fired	... ..	1
(2) No. of applications for Prior Approval	... ..	Nil
No. Granted	... ..	Nil

SMOKE CONTROL.

Particulars of areas under smoke control are as follows:—

Area	... ..	4,636 acres
No. of Dwellinghouses	... ..	11,765
No. of Shops	... ..	131
No. of Schools	... ..	20
No. of Industrial Premises	... ..	19
No. of Miscellaneous Premises	... ..	31

The smoke control programme received a setback due to a breakdown in supplies of smokeless fuels. The date of operation of the seventh Smoke Control Order had already been postponed and it was also thought necessary to apply to the Department of the Environment for the suspension of the remainder of the Orders in Thurrock. However, the Minister authorised the suspension of only two of the Orders. These were in Aveley and Belhus. The power to instigate Smoke Control Orders was provided in the Clean Air Act of 1956. Since that date 31.6% of the dwellinghouses in Thurrock have been brought under Smoke Control Orders. At this slow rate of progress it would take another 30 years to extend Smoke Control areas over the entire area. It affords some consolation that the trend seems to be towards smokeless fuels among domestic users.

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS.

A report from the Air Pollution Section of the Warren Spring's Laboratory indicated that the gauges at the Drums and Ward Avenue sites were duplicating the results and arising from that, the site at Ward Avenue was discontinued. However, it is the Council's intention to instal a dust gauge in Purfleet to monitor the dust fall-out in the western end of the district.

The readings from these gauges for the year are as follows : —

MILLIGRAMMES PER SQUARE METRE

	Drums Site		Kenningtons		Ward Ave.		West Thurrock		DRUMS SITE DIRECTIONAL GAUGES			
	Total Solids	Cement	Total Solids	Cement	Total Solids	Cement	Total Solids	Cement	North	East	South	West
1970												
January	605	128	441	209	293	66	1142	379	27	334	42	157
February	482	188	200	64	—	—	830	685	230	214	37	538
March	460	189	200	53	—	—	751	594	163	225	50	482
April	487	237	196	47	—	—	612	445	230	138	43	252
May	265	65	203	37	—	—	558	329	140	130	40	179
June	252	71	187	32	—	—	480	318	164	278	38	181
July	317	159	162	22	—	—	603	422	150	124	35	368
August	308	89	215	46	—	—	550	354	159	284	64	156
September	533	220	294	140	—	—	1062	521	139	101	10	287
October	290	134	152	46	—	—	612	459	280	180	41	496
November	538	196	302	91	—	—	725	420	109	350	87	304
December	374	119	282	2	—	—	790	555	293	211	15	147

Averages

1970	405	149	236	65	—	—	726	456	173	46	214	42	222	60	295	78
1969	397	163	273	79	345	159	521	349	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1968	364	156	240	161	352	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1967	409	—	277	—	421	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966	409	—	242	—	376	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965	476	—	247	—	401	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

N.B.—West Thurrock came into use 1st February, 1969

Five deposit gauges are maintained by the Council and the monthly results are forwarded to the Thameside Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution

The readings from these instruments were as follows:—

Mth.	GRAYS			BELHUS			STANFORD-LE-HOPE			WEST THURROCK		
	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Micrograms/cu.M./Air Ratio S/S.O ₂
1970												
Jan.				39	134	0.29	62.5	107.2	0.59	30.9	89	0.35
Feb.	87.6	161.7	0.54	11.1	140.5	0.08	41.3	124.1	0.33	24.3	148	0.11
Mar.	61.0	126.0	0.48	13.5	114	0.12	31.5	101.4	0.30	22.7	120	0.19
April	52.5	122.2	0.43	9.8	103	0.09	24.2	100.2	0.24	15.3	109	0.14
May	40.4	73.6	0.55	18.4	85.9	0.20	18.9	69.1	0.28	18.3	92.8	0.19
June	35.4	72.5	0.48	8.3	74.8	0.11	18.0	53.8	0.33	14.2	50.2	0.28
July	43.4	81.7	0.53	16.2	48.2	0.34	13.3	68.6	0.197	22.5	62.9	0.36
Aug.	18.1	40.5	0.45	14.2	63.5	0.22	14.9	53.5	0.28	17.2	45.6	0.38
Sept.	37.5	92.2	0.41	17.0	82.7	0.21	30.3	68.2	0.44	29.6	62.4	0.47
Oct.	59.4	81.6	0.72	20.2	89.1	0.23	37.4	104.8	0.36	47.0	89.0	0.52
Nov.	66.4	128.9	0.51	18.7	100.7	0.18	40.2	140.2	0.28	41.4	108.6	0.38
Dec.	92.6	114.6	0.81	72.4	110.7	0.65	68.2	112.1	0.61	79.5	111.0	0.71
Ave.:												
1970	45.5	91.3	0.49	21.5	103.9	0.23	33.4	91.9	0.35	30.2	90.7	0.34
1969	72.1	103.6	0.69	38.7	102.5	0.38	57.8	103.7	0.56	70.5	139.5	0.51
1968	58.7	98.5	0.59	35.5	75.3	0.47	35.6	89.0	0.40	50.9	87.3	0.57
1967	78	125	0.62	44	98	0.45	50	92	0.54	68	102	0.67
1966	65	109	0.60	43	91	0.47	50	92	0.54	69	87	0.79
1965	87	121	0.72	58	113	0.51	61	105	0.58	80	107	0.75
1964	103	131	0.78	69	124	0.56	80	123	0.62	126	164	0.77

WIND DIRECTION — NUMBER OF DAYS

	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
1970								
January	—	3	2	16	1	4	1	4
February	—	2	1	2	—	13	2	8
March	1	4	1	3	1	13	1	7
April	1	1	1	—	—	12	2	13
May	1	4	1	5	1	6	5	8
June	—	2	5	10	2	9	—	2
July	—	1	1	1	2	17	1	8
August	—	5	3	2	2	12	—	7
September	—	2	1	6	1	18	1	1
October	—	2	1	4	—	16	1	7
November	—	1	1	7	—	18	1	2
December	—	9	1	2	3	8	2	6

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A Rodent Officer and two operatives form the section which deal with this work. They carry out routine control work and deal with complaints. These complaints have increased during the year under review and there has been a total increase of 338 properties visited. This has meant that other activities have not received the attention one would wish.

It had been the practice to survey all the sewers throughout the area once during the year and it has not been possible to carry this out because of the increase in complaints.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff during the year: —

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other Premises	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification ...	38	969	177	1184
(b) Survey under the Act ...	—	9	—	9
(c) Otherwise ...	—	—	—	—
2. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major ...	3	1	—	4
} Minor ...	20	479	87	577
(b) Mice } Major ...	—	—	5	5
} Minor ...	8	344	78	430
3. Total treatments carried out incl. retreatments ...	34	997	173	1204

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

The section involved in this work provides a service in the case of pests other than those regarded as of public health significance. These include earwigs, wasps and ants all of which are dealt with by the sale of insecticides or as in the case of wasps by disinfestation at a charge. During the year 65 wasps nests were treated, 48 premises were treated for bugs and 38 for fleas.

Feral or wild pigeons present problems in some areas due to the nuisance arising from the fouling of buildings and footpaths.

The department put out traps where necessary and 81 pigeons were caught this way.

The larvae of the Brown Tail Moth caused its problems (which had not arisen before) in the area. Many complaints were received from residents regarding invasions of caterpillars which in some people caused an irritating rash. Heavy infestations occurred over a wide area and the labour force of the department were unable to cope with all the complaints. The Council's Chief Executive Officer decreed that this was a "horticultural insect with strong public health connotations" so my department had to "soldier on." However, in future the valuable services of the Parks Department are to be enlisted and it is hoped that we will be able to keep this problem under control. Much can be done to control this pest by pruning infected trees in the autumn and winter, thus destroying the cocoons of the moth.

The department continued to provide a drain clearing service at a charge of 15/-. 241 drains were cleared and 37 tests applied.

During 1970, 5 rooms were fumigated following infectious disease and bedding was steam disinfected in 2 cases.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 9.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

16 plants were licensed during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

This Act requires establishments used for the boarding of cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Council employs a qualified Veterinary Officer on a part-time basis to make periodic inspections of all establishments and to submit a report prior to applications for licences being considered. In addition routine inspections are made during the year.

During 1970, 4 establishments were licensed by the Council.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964.

This Act requires Riding Establishments to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Veterinary Officer dealing with Animal Boarding Establishments has been appointed for the purpose of the inspection and licensing of these establishments.

During 1970, 3 establishments were licensed by the Council.

NIGHTDRESSES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967.

No samples of children's nightdresses were taken during the year. It has been found that nightdresses made from materials which do not comply with the regulations have disappeared from retail premises. There yet remains the danger arising from home-made nightdresses of inflammable materials. This is a hazard against which it would be difficult to legislate.

TOYS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967.

These were also made under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, and came into operation on 1st November, 1967. They prescribe the amount of lead and other toxic metals which may be present in the paint on such toys.

3 samples were taken, all were satisfactory.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

Complaints of noise followed a pattern much the same as previous years. Causes of complaint are many and varied ranging from noises from factories in close proximity to houses to noise from the next door neighbour. The most extraordinary complaint was of a vehicle fitted with electronic devices which went off at 2 minute intervals during the night.

The police were involved in this case and they had apparently instructed the owner to move the vehicle.

Other complaints included:—

Noise from repair of motor cycles.

Noise from activities at a container depot.

Delivery of building materials.

Compressor motor.

Testing of fire sirens.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA						VISITS
Atmospheric	...	...	...	...	...	1,092
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	25
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	484
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	61
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	758
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	3,886
Factories (Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	122
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fairs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	348
Food Preparation Premises (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	381
Food Shops Inspection (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	787
Food Vehicles and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	72
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	38
Improvement Area (Compulsory)	...	...	...	...	...	152
Improvement Grants (Standard)	...	...	...	...	...	314
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	...	...	...	...	...	968
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	375
Licensed Premises (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	119
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	998
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	503
Noise	...	...	...	...	...	161
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	23
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	23
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:						
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	39
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	516
Wholesale Premises and Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	8

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA					VISITS
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act (cont.):					
Catering Establishments	..	...	...	...	51
Staff Canteens	...	...	...	...	12
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Animals, Boarding and Riding Establishments					43
Qualification Certificates	...	...	...	...	27
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	167
Refuse Tips and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	967
Sampling: Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	243
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	127
Milk	...	...	...	...	182
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	46
Mains Water	...	...	...	...	12
Well Water	...	...	...	...	5
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	64
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act, 1950 (Records and Hours)	...	...	...	...	23
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke Control	...	...	...	...	239
Stables and Pigsties	...	...	...	...	16
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	76
Waste Food Order	...	...	...	...	26
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	33
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	27
Work Places	...	...	...	...	2
Toy Samples	...	...	...	...	3

SECTION "E"

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new dwellings erected during the year: —

By local authority	...	...	...	...	857
By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	256
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	585

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

1. (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2,024
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	3,886
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Acts	1,339
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	2,248
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit (excluding Clearance Areas)	8
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	215

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers	65
---	-----	-----	-----	----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) <i>Housing Act, 1957—Section 9</i>	7
--	-----	-----	-----	---

(B) *Public Health Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring matters to be remedied	10
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which matters were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By local authority in default of owner ...	Nil

(C) *Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
(iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted	Nil
(iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted	Nil

(D) *Sections 17 and 18, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(ii) Number of houses closed	4
(iii) Parts of Building closed	Nil
(iv) Closing Orders Determined	Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE.

14 Clearance Areas were declared during the year. These involved 108 properties. Nine of those Clearance Areas involving 70 houses were situated in the Grays East Improvement Area.

Slum clearance work should tend to decrease as time goes on and be replaced by rehabilitation by way of improvement.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

1. No. of Applications received :—

(a) For Discretionary Grants under the Housing Acts, 1959-64	—
---	---

(b) For Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1969	102
(c) Combined Improvement Grant and Qualification Certificate under the Housing Act, 1969 (included in (b) above)	21
(d) For Standard Grants under the Housing Acts, 1959/64	—
(e) For Standard Grants under the Housing Act, 1969 ...	18
(f) For Combined Standard Grant and Qualification Certificate under the Housing Act, 1969 (included in (e) above)	2
2. No. of Notices of Approval issued :—	
(a) For Improvement Grants (under the Housing Act, 1969)	96
(b) For Discretionary Grants (under the Housing Acts, 1959/64)	—
(c) For Standard Grants (under the Housing Act, 1969)	15
(d) For Standard Grants (under the Housing Acts, 1959/64)	—

IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

Work was begun on the proposed General Improvement Area at the Eastern end of Grays. This area has long been regarded as ripe for development and when the Housing Act, 1969, came into operation providing powers to make a General Improvement Area it was thought that Grays East Area could be dealt with in this way. The intention behind General Improvement Areas is to improve the environment by encouraging the improvement of the houses in the area with aid of grants for the provision of bathrooms, internal W.C's., sinks, wash-hand basins and hot water and the remedy of disrepair. The improvement of individual houses is intended to be coupled with the provision of improved environment by way of open spaces, pedestrian precincts, adequate car parking and play areas. The Grays East Area containing 536 houses in an area of 10.29 hectares was surveyed in detail during the year and it is hoped to be in a position to declare the area during 1971.

The position at the end of 1970 can be summed up in the following table :—

Improvement Area	TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLINGS		COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT (Tenanted Property)						VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT (Owner/Occupied Property)
	Fully Improved	Needing Improvement	Suspended Notices Served	Immediate Improvement Notices Served	Final Improvement Notices Served	Purchase Notices	Under-takings Given	Dwellings Improved Since Area Declared	
No. 1	127	143	23	32	Nil	13	3	24	16
No. 2	3	35	12	23	1	—	Nil	Nil	Not Applicable
No. 3	239	90	5	12	Nil	1	Nil	8	4
No. 4	7	12	7	5	Area Demolished 1970				Not Applicable
No. 5	138	175	38	21	2	12	Nil	4	8
No. 6	1	25	4	5	1	6	1	1	2
INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS	—	28	Not Applicable	23	Not Applicable	6	1	7	Not Applicable

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year 86 rooms were disinfested for vermin, i.e., fleas, bugs and cockroaches.

In addition, 20 other disinfestations were carried out by the use of a liquid insecticide with a residual effect or by the use of insecticidal powder. A charge of 15/- per room was made.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 23 visits were made in connection with complaints of overcrowding. Where overcrowding was established, the matter was referred to the Housing Department and if the family concerned were applicants for a Council house an allowance can be made in the "Points" Scheme.

In this connection a greater degree of priority is given to those cases in which overcrowding arises from natural increase in the family.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The year under review did not give rise to a great deal of problems in connection with gipsies and other travellers.

Part II of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, places a duty on local authorities to provide sites for gipsies. This provision has not been implemented in the area and this is to be regretted since it prevents the control of unauthorised encampments.

The unauthorised site at West Thurrock is virtually completely run-down. Only one or two caravans remain.

There is one licensed site in the area, at Corringham, consisting of 20 standings.

The position in Thurrock regarding properly licensed sites is as follows:—

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | No. of cases during the year in which a site licence was granted | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Total number of licensed sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 2,532 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every effort is made to deal with such complaints on the day of receipt. However, the increasing demands which are being made on the department are having the effect of causing delay in dealing with complaints.

SECTION "F"

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number in Register (2)	Number of inspec- tions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	17	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	366	122	18	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	383	131	18	—

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

There are two employers of outworkers as defined in Section 133 of the Act, in this area.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 77.

SECTION "G"

SHOPS AND OFFICES

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Act, 1950.

Shops (Early Closing) Days Act, 1965.

Young Persons (Employment) Acts, 1938-64.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

CLOSING ORDERS.

- (1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m.
Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 9 p.m.

Art needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gentlemen's Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

- (2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.
Tobacconists — Weekdays, 9.30 p.m. Saturday, 10 p.m.

Sunday Trading Exemptions.

Parts of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).

Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.

SHOPS ACTS, 1950—1965.

23 visits were carried out resulting in the service of 4 written notices.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Registrations and General Inspections:

Premises	Registra- tions dur- ing 1970	Total No. of Registered Premises	First Inspect'ns in 1970
Offices	4	176	36
Retail Shops	4	570	209
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ...	2	13	7
Catering Establishments & Canteens	3	95	28
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	1

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 628.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Premises				No. of Persons Employed	
Offices	...	...	...	...	3,439
Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	3,029
Wholesale Dept. Warehouses	...	...	...	...	183
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	657
Canteens	...	...	...	...	243
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	9
				TOTAL	7,551
				Males	3,592
				Females	3,959

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section	Number of Contraventions Found					
4	Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	1
6	Temperature	...	...	...	...	14
7	Ventilation	...	...	...	...	6
8	Lighting	...	...	...	...	6
9	Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	27
10	Washing Facilities	...	...	...	...	5
16	Floors, Passages and Stairs	...	...	...	...	17
20	Maintenance of Hoists and Lifts	...	...	...	...	2
24	First Aid	...	...	...	...	24
	Other Matters	...	...	...	...	30
						TOTAL 132

Exemptions.

No applications for exemptions were made during the year.

Regulations.

Regulations regarding lighting, ventilation, cleanliness and facilities for the drying of clothing have not yet been made by the Minister but a circular has been issued which gives guidance to local authorities for the purpose of enforcing Section 8 relating to lighting.

Accidents.

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

(a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises

or

(b) disables any such person for more than three days.

19 accidents were notified during the year, a reduction of 10 on the previous year.

No contraventions were found and no legal proceedings were taken. There were three accidents involving lifting operations and it was obvious that the cause was failure to observe good practice in lifting movements. Management have a responsibility to see that employees are aware of the proper way to handle weight.

An unusual accident was reported in which an employee was injured by a wire nail which had been fired from a cartridge fired nail gun. Building operations were going on in the adjoining shop and the nail had emerged from the wall on the opposite side of the room from the injured person.

The matter was taken up with the Factory Inspectorate who stated they were only too well aware of the dangers of this type of nail gun and safety precautions have been taken such as providing a shield. Accidents usually occur when there is a hidden weakness or fault in the wall.

REPORTED ACCIDENTS, 1970

Nature of Injury

Primary cause	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
		Fractures and Dislocations	Sprains and Strains	Internal Injury	Amputations	Open Wounds and Surface Injury	Bruising, Crushing and Concussion	Burns	Multiple Injuries of a Different Nature	Other Injuries	TOTAL
Machinery (power and non-power)	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Transport	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Falls of persons	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Stepping on or striking against object or person	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Handling goods (not otherwise specified)	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Struck by falling object	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Fires and explosions...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Due to electricity	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Use of hand tools	...	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	7
Not otherwise specified	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Total	...	1	7	1	—	8	1	—	—	1	19

Notices Served.

Details of Requirements made under the Act during the year are as follows:—

Requirement	Number
Cleanse and tidy premises	1
Provide thermometer	11
Provide adequate means of heating	3
Provide adequate ventilation	2
Provide adequate lighting to work areas	6
Cleanse and/or redecorate W.C.	22
Provide intervening ventilated space to W.C.	1
Provide hand washing facilities	4
Mark sanitary accommodation for sexes	4
Provide and fix staircase handrail	1
Repair paving and steps	1
Repair or renew staircase	7
Repair or renew floors	13
Repair/renew door fittings	1
Provide first aid box	24
Repair Window	3
Register premises	5
Provide copy of "Abstract of the Act"	22
Remove obstructions	2
Repair goods hoist	2
Provide drainage to cellar	1
Cleanse/repair sink waste gully	1
Ensure regular emptying of cesspool	1

SECTION "H"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES.

Within the Urban District 6 premises are registered as Dairies under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. They are essentially distribution depots and no handling of bulk milk is involved.

There are eleven dairy farms within the District, all the milk produced therefrom is sent to pasteurising plants, with the exception of one farm which retails a proportion of its production as untreated raw milk. All milk is, of course, produced from Tuberculin Tested herds.

RETAIL MILK SHOPS.

Two licences were issued during the year in respect of the sale of designated milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1963.

Licences in force under these Regulations are as follows:—

(a)	Dealers (pre-packed) for untreated milk	...	8
(b)	„ „ „ pasteurised milk	...	88
(c)	„ „ „ sterilised milk	...	98
(d)	„ „ „ ultra heat treated milk		19

Note—Although 8 dealers are licensed to sell untreated milk none is, in fact, sold other than from the one farm referred to above.

MILK SAMPLES.

(a) *Bacteriological.*

No milk pasteurising plants are situated within the Urban District and all milk retailed in the District is processed at plants within the areas of nearby authorities. The sampling of milk to establish satisfactory pasteurisation (Phosphatase Test) keeping qualities (Methylene Blue Test) and sterilised milk (Turbidity Test), is carried out every week.

From the following table it will be noted that no sample failed the statutory test—a very satisfactory situation. The “voids” indicate that the ambient air temperature on arrival at the laboratory was above the statutory limit, i.e., 70°F and therefore the test was not proceeded with.

All bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Southend General Hospital, whose co-operation and assistance is appreciated.

GRADE	No. taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test			Colony Count		Turbidity Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Void	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	164	164	—	160	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ultra Heat Treated	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	168	164	—	160	4	—	2	—	2	—

(b) *Biological.*

There are eleven (11) milk producing farms in the district. Only one farm retails part of its daily output as untreated (raw) milk, all other milk is subject to pasteurisation.

The sampling of milk by the department is restricted to those farms retailing untreated milk, which is tested for Brucellosis organisms. These samples, taken monthly, proved negative to Brucellosis. The one farm still retailing untreated milk has, in fact, voluntarily joined the Ministry's Brucellosis eradication scheme and is Registered by the Ministry as an Accredited Herd.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Two slaughterhouses are licensed in the district, both of which remain in constant use.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	2332	—	4	3821	4274	—
Number inspected						
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	1	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	348	—	—	40	529	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	14.96	—	—	1.07	12.49	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	84	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	1.92	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Cysticercosis ...	1.24	—	—	.02	—	—

The number of animals killed remains reasonably constant at 10,431 during the year. The quality of meat produced at both slaughterhouses remains extremely good. Although a marginal increase in *Cystercircus Bovis* is recorded other pathological conditions found relate principally to Fascioliasis (liver fluke) affecting bovine and sheep livers, *Ascaris* infestation of pig livers and bruising—all of which conditions require only condemnation of the affected parts or organs. Every animal passing through the slaughterhouses is subjected to a detailed inspection in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations.

The hours of slaughter continue to be controlled by the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966. Saturday slaughter up to 12 noon is permitted at one slaughterhouse but the need for this to continue is in some doubt. Slaughtering hours on Monday to Friday are limited to 10 hours daily and finishing not later than 6 p.m.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The total weight of meat condemned (including offal) at both slaughterhouses during the year amounted to 9,263 lbs.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Seven slaughtermen are licensed in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

UN SOUND FOOD (Voluntary Surrender).

Commodity	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.
2,510 Tins Fruit	28	3	12
428 „ Meat	8	1	13
1,950 „ Vegetables	17	—	25
74 „ Soup	—	1	16
169 „ Fish	—	3	12
182 „ Fruit Juice	2	1	23
118 „ Milk and Cream	—	2	15
92 „ Milk Pudding	—	1	10
100 „ Sweet (Puddings)	—	3	23
4 „ Meat Puddings	—	—	3
4 „ Duo Can Meals	—	—	6
2 „ Nut Oil	—	—	18
3 „ Golden Syrup	—	—	6
324 Jars Beetroot	2	—	8
Biscuits and Cereals	5	3	19
Cake and Pastry Mix	—	1	5
Desiccated Coconut	—	—	5
Ground Almonds	—	—	7
Sultanas	—	2	2

Commodity	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs
Jelly Crystals, Table Creams and Blanc Mange Powder	—	2	3
Milla	—	—	3
Haricot Beans	—	—	5
Preserves	—	—	26
Butter and Lard	—	1	—
Cheese	1	1	8
Wet Fish	—	—	17
Bacon	—	1	12
Beef	4	2	10
Rabbit	—	1	23
Cooked Turkey	—	—	18
Frozen Foods	17	3	20
24 Tins Vegetable Juice			
50 Meat Pies and Pasties			
8½ Gallons Shrimps			
1 Gallon Pickles			
14,551 Packets of Frozen Foods			
<hr/>			
TOTAL	95	1	9

All condemned food is collected by the department and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip under supervision.

The considerable increase in frozen goods surrendered calls for comment and is a cause for concern. It has been the policy of the department to accept surrender of frozen foods where a retailer reports a breakdown in refrigeration and requests removal of his stock. Such food may be at various stages of defrosting and softness, although it may safely be assumed that the fitness of the food is unaffected. Having regard to the type of food involved and the saleability of the product may be affected and it is often this aspect which prompts a retailer to call in the Public Health Inspector.

Apart from the loss of food, which must be considerable over the country as a whole, the Public Health Inspector's time is involved on work which has little or no public health significance.

Surely the time has arrived when the frozen food manufacturing trade should ensure, through their area representatives, that retailers are instructed on methods of covering open frozen cabinets (possibly with aluminium foil) after the day's trading so as to ensure maximum retention of product temperature should an electrical failure occur when the shop is closed. Furthermore, the necessity of keeping the cabinets fully loaded (although not above the maximum loading line) should be stressed.

At times when most Public Health Inspectors are working under considerable pressures, their involvement in matters which should rightly be the concern of the trade, will need assessment.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

103 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

<i>Ministry's Provisional Grading</i>				<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I	...	...	...	90
Grade II	...	...	...	9
Grade III	...	...	...	4
Grade IV	...	...	...	Nil

9 Ice Lolly samples were also taken and proved satisfactory, i.e., had a pH value of less than 4.5.

The standard of ice cream sold within the area during the year is given below, the various producers being given an alphabetical letter. Only producers C, F and J manufacture ice cream within the Urban District, the remaining producers retail in the district but manufacture elsewhere.

Producer	Total Samples	I	II	III	IV
A	51	47	3	1	—
B	32	28	2	2	—
*C	9	7	1	1	—
D	4	2	2	—	—
E	2	2	—	—	—
*F	2	2	—	—	—
G	1	1	—	—	—
H	1	1	—	—	—
*J	1	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	103	90	9	4	—

A breakdown of the 12 samples taken from producers within the area is as follows:—

	C	F	J
No. of Samples ...	9	2	1
Percentage of Grade I Samples ...	77.77	100	Nil
Percentage of Grade I and II Samples	88.88	100	100
Percentage of Grade III Samples ...	11.11	Nil	Nil
Percentage of Grade IV Samples ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

The results of these samples are encouraging and indicate a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

1,836 inspections and re-inspections were made to retail food premises, restaurants, cafes, works and school canteens, etc.

Arising from such inspections the following requirements were requested to ensure compliance with the Regulations:—

REQUIREMENTS	NUMBER
Repair and/or decorate walls/ceiling	58
Cleanse or renew equipment	16
Provide suitably covered refuse containers ...	6
Protect food and containers from risk of contamination	8
Display "Wash your Hands" Notices	8
Repair shop floor covering	9
Provide accommodation for outdoor clothing ...	2
Provide suitable storage facilities	1
Provide soap, towels and nailbrushes	16
Provide or renew sinks	8
Repair/renew wall tiles	8
Repair roofs	3
Renew defective internal surfaces of food stores and refrigerators	8
Provide/repair/cleanse shelves or working surfaces	15
Provide hot water supply to sink	8
Cleanse/renew wash-hand basins	7
Remove accumulations from rear of premises ...	3
Ensure No Smoking by Food Handlers	1

PROSECUTIONS.

Compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations is largely achieved by informal action, but occasionally it becomes necessary to bring legal proceedings in the local Magistrates' Court where an informal approach has failed to produce the necessary results. During the year two cases were heard in the local Court. One case involving 72 charges, was taken against the directors of two local bakehouses and one retail confectionery premises. All charges were proved and a fine of £216 imposed, plus £20 costs. The other case related to a local food premises trading in pre-packed take-home meals, and involved six charges. In this case a conviction was obtained on all six charges and a fine of £180, plus £20 costs was imposed.

CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The following table gives the details of the various types of food premises within the district to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations apply. Regulation 16 relates to the provision of a wash-hand basin with hot and cold water and Regulation 19 to the provision of a sink, also with a supply of hot and cold water.

The relationship between the number of food premises (761) and the number of inspections made (1,836) does not give grounds for gratification. When it is considered that the number of visits includes re-visits it is obvious that insufficient attention is being given to food shop inspection. In my view food preparation premises require at least four visits per year, and the sub-standard premises possibly at least once per month. This standard of inspection is impossible to achieve as the services of the Public Health Inspectors are becoming in greater demand in other spheres of the work. Unfortunately, therefore, there can be no room for complacency, particularly in an area such as Thurrock containing many older type food premises where the extent of the trade has exceeded that for which the premises were originally equipped. It cannot be over emphasised, however, that the housewife has the ability to improve standards of hygiene in food premises by shopping only at those premises which have acceptable standards. This practice would do much in improving the general presentation of retail premises.

Comment should also be made on the temperature control of foodstuffs. The existing Regulations prescribe minimum and maximum temperatures below and above which certain foods must be kept in an endeavour to prevent the growth of food poisoning bacteria. Regrettably this Regulation only applies to such foods in catering premises and even then so many "escape" clauses exist in the Regulations as to make them practically impossible to enforce. Furthermore, no statutory provision exists requiring the temperature control of susceptible foods in transit, neither, as previously stated, where such foods are sold from supermarkets and grocery shops.

TRADE	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Butchers	65	65	65	65
Grocery & Provision Merchants	91	91	91	91
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	58	58	58	58
Fishmongers (incl.) Fish Fryers	32	32	32	32
Sugar Confectionery	81	81	77	77
Flour Confectionery	31	31	31	31
Bakehouses	10	10	10	10
Cafes & Restaurants	78	78	78	78
Works Canteens	67	67	67	67
School Canteens	52	52	52	52
Licensed Premises	80	80	80	80
Clubs	47	47	47	47
General Stores incl. Supermarkets	69	69	69	69

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16.

294 premises are currently registered under the above section for:

- (a) the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale;
- or,
- (b) the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream.

A considerable number of registered premises under (a) above relate to domestic premises where the occupier engages in the peeling of shrimps. Only two premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream under (b) above.

FOOD COMPLAINTS.

58 complaints relating to the sale of unsatisfactory food were made to the department—a slight decrease on the complaints made the previous year.

Complaints are classified as follows:—

Food not unfit	Dirty Milk Bottle	Foreign Bodies in Milk	Insects in Food	Foreign Bodies in Food	Decomposition or stale Food	Mouldy Food	Miscellaneous
4	3	4	6	16	5	12	8

There was a marked reduction in the number of complaints regarding dirty milk bottles and foreign bodies in milk. This is a welcome trend and no doubt is the result of increased vigilance at processing plants. However, the use (and misuse) of glass returnable milk bottles has always presented the Dairy Industry with a problem which can never be completely overcome. Apart from the difficulty of cleaning milk bottles, the economic considerations of replacing broken and non-returned bottles must eventually result in the development and use of a non-returnable plastic bottle even though this would present disposal problems to the local authorities.

The number of complaints of mouldy food continues to give rise to concern; not so much from the aspect of possible health risk to the consumer, but because it indicates unsatisfactory stock rotation and control which present risk of bacterial growth on susceptible foods. My earlier comment on temperature control of certain foods is particularly relevant.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS (FOOD COMPLAINTS)

9 prosecutions were taken during the year, details of which are given below. All cases were taken under Section 2—Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Date of Hearing	Detail of Case	Fine	Costs
5/1/70	Sale of Smoked Ham Sausage Pate ...	£3	
3/2/70	Fruit Pie (Mouldy)	£10	
18/3/70	Sale of Flour (contained maggots) ...	£10	
17/6/70	Sale of Corned Beef Roll (contained cigarette end)	£25	£10
20/7/70	Loaf of Bread (contained metal nut) ...	£20	
22/7/70	Sale of Sausage Rolls (mouldy)	£20	£2
25/11/70	Bottle of Milk (contained cardboard) ...	£15	£5
14/12/70	Milk Bottle (dirty)	£20	£3
14/12/70	Loaf of Bread (contained fibre)	£20	£3

The increased number of prosecutions reflects the attitude of the Council in taking legal proceedings in those cases where a *prima facie* case is established, unless particular mitigating circumstances exist.

IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968.

The Inland Container Depot became fully operational in August, 1970, and one of the existing District Public Health Inspectors was promoted to Senior Public Health Inspector with particular responsibilities for the inspection of imported foods. From the time of opening until the end of the year 2,692 food containers, representing 40,000 tons, passed through the base. 505 containers were examined in detail involving a total of 7,726 tons of food. 43 samples of various foods were taken for analysis.

The following food was condemned :—

Food	Reason for Condemnation
475 lbs. Sultanas	Wet damage, mould
30 cwts. Fresh Green Ginger	Mould
1 x 2 gallon tin Sliced Apples	Blown and leaking

The food passing through the Container Base at the present time all originates from Australia and is of good quality. No fresh meat is at present dealt with at the base.

In addition to food condemned, problems which have been encountered include mice infestation of a container, condensation of containers, and tinned meats which have not satisfied U.K. standards either in respect of labelling or constituents.

Report of the Public Analyst

During the year 1970, 331 articles of food and drugs were examined. Of these, 54 were taken formally, 261 informally, and 16 were submitted as complaints.

The number adulterated or about which some adverse comment was made was 30. The incidence of criticisms may be classified as follows:—

				No. of samples examined	No. of samples adulterated, etc.
Milk	...	...	...	38	3
Other foods	...	...	...	255	25
Drugs	...	...	...	38	2

A milk bottle was submitted because it contained a piece of cardboard. The writing on the card was still legible and the cardboard had not disintegrated as it would have done had it been through the bottle washing machine; it was, therefore, thought probable that the cardboard must have been inserted into the bottle after filling with milk. The foreign matter in another milk bottle consisted essentially of decomposed vegetable material with a large quantity of mould mycelium.

Complaint was made regarding the odour of some milk, and the results of the examination indicated that this milk must have been stored for a long time in a refrigerator. Owing to the growth of an alkali-forming bacterium it had developed an off odour without becoming sour. One of the disadvantages of pasteurisation is that the normal acid-forming flora of milk is destroyed and other cultures may develop.

On opening a can of condensed full cream milk the contents were found to be out of condition, the milk being brownish in colour and possessing a slight odour.

No less than six justified complaints were received during the year due to contamination of bread. Foreign matter present in a white loaf consisted of rust, oil, and vegetable fibres, probably hemp, indicating that gear oil containing iron had fallen on to a sack and gained access to the bread. A green discolouration on another piece of bread had been derived from a coloured wrapper or some similar material. Another loaf contained two pieces of webbed fibrous material probably from a belt attached to some machinery in the bakery concerned, and two flies were found in yet another portion of bread measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". A slice of bread contained a mouse dropping, and examination of another loaf showed a hole which could have been the tooth marks of a mouse. Had this hole been made by a finger, a piece of wood, or some similar object, the bread would have been compressed, but there were no signs of such pressure. Moreover, the complaint hole was lined with a black mould growth indicating that whatever made the hole had been contaminated with moulds, such as one

would expect from the exterior furry portion of the mouth of a mouse. Apparently a number of similar complaints have been received in different parts of the country about holes of this type and it is suggested that they have not always been attacked by rodents, but have been left where birds could feed on the bread.

A flour moth found in a jam tart had not been cooked and had probably settled on the upper surface of the jam from which it had been unable to escape. It is quite a common custom to place jam in tarts of this type after the pastry has been cooked.

One larva about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long was found in a box of figs which were accordingly reported as inferior.

Complaint was made regarding foreign matter discovered in a frozen pre-packed meal served in a canteen. It consisted of faecal matter from a small animal, not a rat or a mouse, and had probably been harvested with the peas.

A Kola flavoured drink was fermenting and contained foreign matter consisting of small vegetable fibres, probably hemp from sacking with adherent yeasts and bacteria.

The contents of a bottle of lemonade about which the purchaser complained because it was completely flat and tasted watery was compared with a control sample. The results of analysis showed that the complaint lemonade contained about one third lemonade mixed with two thirds water.

A low calorie grapefruit drink, an orange drink, and a lemon drink, were all found to contain cyclamic acid, an artificial sweetener, whose use had been prohibited as from the 1st January.

Two samples of pork sausages were deficient in meat. One contained total meat 56.3% instead of not less than 65%, and was therefore 13% deficient in meat, whilst the other contained 58.5% total meat being approximately 10% deficient. Another sample of pork sausages submitted was satisfactory as regards meat content, but contained 274 parts per million of sulphur dioxide without a declaration of the presence of this preservative.

Some lamb tongues in jelly contained 80% of meat which is satisfactory for this type of product, but the printing of the words "Lamb Tongues" was in large print with the words "In Jelly" in much smaller print which could not easily be read. The product also contained an excessive quantity of salt, namely 4%.

An Irish Stew contained 32.15% of meat, but as Irish Stew is a meat product by implication, meat should be the principal ingredient and this product must, therefore, be correctly described as a "Ready Meal."

A beef spread was discoloured due to oxidation, no doubt caused by the type of container used. Samples of spread or paste are often discoloured, but, owing to the type of pack adopted, the

discolouration is generally less than with this product and people do not notice it so obviously. A sandwich spread claimed the presence of 37mg. of vitamin C per ounce but only 18.2mg. could be detected. A follow-up sample submitted was satisfactory with regard to the vitamin C content, but discoloured rapidly after opening and it was obvious that the vitamin C was quickly destroyed. The spread was considered an unstable product to put on the market.

A gripe water was incorrectly labelled as disclosing its "Formula" instead of "Active Ingredients." It listed polymethylsiloxane as an active ingredient, but this is not an approved name.

Some babies' dummies contained a casein gel filling and a preservative which was inactive against gram negative organisms such as *pseudomonas aeruginosa*. This is a common organism and might infect children so that your analyst did not consider these dummies to be satisfactory.

Some pastilles possessed an unpleasant odour on receipt at this laboratory, but after keeping them in their original packet the odour disappeared, and it was probable that the packet had been placed near a disinfectant with a strong odour.

Some saccharin tablets were disintegrated and brownish in colour on receipt and were not of the quality a purchaser is entitled to expect. They were no doubt old stock.

FOOD LEGISLATION IN 1970

There has been considerable activity at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food during the current year and the most interesting decision that has emerged is the proposal in future to review existing regulations every five years. As a result, a report has been issued suggesting that the Orders relating to Baking Powder and Golden Raising Powder, Edible Gelatine, Mustard, and Curry Powder should be revoked, and that the Orders relating to Tomato Ketchup and Fish Cakes should be continued with improved standards, and that provision should be made for the addition of antioxidants in suet. When it is remembered that the members of the Ministry's Committees give their services voluntarily, that these Committees are small and that the field to be covered is so vast, one may, perhaps, be forgiven for suggesting that the Ministry might again follow the example of the Pharmacopoeia Commission and arrange for various Sub-Committees to work with and advise the Main Committees.

Food and Drugs (Milk) Act, 1970. This Act introduces an innovation in British Food Administration in that it allows the treatment of milk by direct steam application, provided that the

same quantity of water is subsequently removed. Whilst many members of the public will view this Act with alarm it should prove of benefit, provided that suitable controls can be arranged.

The Labelling of Food Regulations, 1970. Owing to criticisms of the Labelling of Food Regulations, 1967, they were revoked and replaced by the 1970 Regulations. These Regulations do not come into force until 1973, but allow for products to comply with the requirements of the 1953 Order, with the 1967 Regulations, or with the 1970 Regulations in the meantime. These Regulations are still so confusing that many manufacturers believe that they will also be revoked. The public badly need protection regarding the labelling and advertising of foods, but Regulations should not be so worded that it is practically impossible to enforce them or so that they cannot be easily understood. Thus it is impossible to know exactly what foods with what names have been on the market for over thirty years before the 4th January, 1971, (Reg. 3 (4)) and it is impossible to tell whether a dried food contains an exact quantity of about 90% of the main ingredient (Regs. 14 and 15), due to irregularities in composition of natural foods and the limitations of analysis. The Regulations permit the sale of kidneys from meat tenderised animals (Reg. 18) but such kidney meat will disintegrate when cooked. There are many other points, which are unsatisfactory, but the more one studies the Regulations the more sympathy one has with anyone trying to formulate them.

The Cheese Regulations, 1970, prescribe various standards for cheese, processed cheese, and cheese spread, which are similar to those in the Cheese Regulations, 1965, except that more varieties of cheese are required to conform to standards. For those cheeses not complying with the standards special labelling provisions are given, either to apply before or after the beginning of 1973.

The Cream Regulations, 1970, allow for more varieties of cream than did the Order of 1951 and are, in many ways, a considerable improvement. These Regulations, however, permit the use of additives and emulsifiers in different types of cream and it is difficult to reconcile these additions with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act without, as in the case of the Food and Drugs (Milk) Act mentioned before, bringing in a special Act of Parliament to vary the main Act.

The Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1970, and the Colouring Matter in Food (Amendment) Regulations, 1970, were both brought into operation rather hurriedly to prohibit the use of brominated oils to produce cloudiness in soft drinks and of Ponceau MX as a colouring matter as it has been shown that they may be harmful to health.

The Report of the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee on Leaching of Substances from Packaging Materials into

Food examines critically the chief contaminants that are likely to be extracted from packaging materials into foods, but realises that, even with simulated food extractants, it is difficult to find really satisfactory tests. One great advantage to the public is that many of these contaminants are more obvious by taste or odour than they are likely to be dangerous to health, so that manufacturers take every care to guard against contamination and complaints.

The Report of the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee reviewing the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations, 1962, provides an excellent summary of additives likely to be employed by food manufacturers in this country and the Committee is to be congratulated on the amount of information it has been able to collect. In Appendix IV it divides the various substances into ten different groups:—

A=acceptable; B=provisionally acceptable; C=possibly toxic; D=probably toxic; E=data inadequate; R=recommended for inclusion in the revised list; ‡=acceptable also for use in whipped cream, †=currently permitted in bread; *=acceptable for use in bread in the revised list; and X=rejected. This number of divisions stresses the difficulties with which food manufacturers and enforcement authorities are faced. However much it might be wished it would be impossible to return to times when food fresh from the garden only is eaten. Food now has to be transported and stored and this entails a considerable amount of processing. The public are not only accustomed to a large variety of foods, they now demand this and one of the complaints about the modern multiple food store is that foods are becoming more standardised. To achieve this standardisation it is necessary that foods invariably look the same, smell the same, and taste the same, in spite of the fact that the starting products must vary according to the weather and other conditions prevailing in different countries and in different years. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Department of Health and Social Service are naturally concerned to ensure that food additives are not only safe, but that their use can be controlled by analysis.

THOMAS McLACHLAN.

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Beer	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Biscuits	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bread	—	1	6	7	—	—	6	6
Cakes	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
CEREALS								
Cornflour	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Flour	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Rice	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Wheat Gluten	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
CHEESE								
Hard	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Soft	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cocktail Savouries	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Coffee, Extract	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Colouring	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Confectionery	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—
Cream	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Dessert Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dummies, Babies	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
EDIBLE FATS								
Butter	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Low Fat Spread	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Margarine	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
FISH								
Canned	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	—
Cakes	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paste	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
FRUIT								
Canned	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—
Dried	—	6	—	6	—	1	—	1
Fresh	—	32	—	32	—	—	—	—
Juice	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Mixed Peel	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Foreign Matter found in Peas	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Gravy Mix	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hydrochloric Casein	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Infant Food	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Macaroni Product	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
MEAT PRODUCTS								
Beefburgers and Rissoles	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Bone Stock	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	15	—	15	—	2	—	2
Luncheon Sausage	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pies	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Puddings	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sausages	1	11	—	12	1	2	—	3
Sheep Casing	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Suet, Shredded	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
MILK								
Complaints	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3
Condensed	—	3	—	3	—	1	—	1
Evaporated	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Fresh	32	2	—	34	—	—	—	—
Longlife	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Powder	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Nuts, Walnuts	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pickles	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Popcorn	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
PRESERVES								
Honey	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Jams and Conserves	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Sauces	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Seasoning	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
SOFT DRINKS								
Apple Drink	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Grapefruit Drink,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Low Calorie	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Kola Drink	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Lemon and Lime	—	5	1	6	—	1	1	2
Mineral Water	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Milk Shake Mixes	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Orange Drink	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	1
Shandy	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Soup, Canned	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
SPICES								
Curry Powder	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Dried Ginger	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
SPIRITS								
Brandy	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Gin	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Rum	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Vodka	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Whisky	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—
SPREADS								
Dietetic	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	2
Savoury	—	7	1	8	—	—	1	1
Sweet	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Tea	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sweeteners, Artificial	—	3	—	3	—	1	—	1
Tomatoes, Canned	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
VEGETABLES								
Canned	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Dehydrated	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Vinegar, Malt	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
DRUGS								
Anti Smoking Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Bronchial and Cold Tablets	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Cough Mixtures	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Expectorant	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Glucose	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Gripe Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Health Salts	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Indigestion Powder	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Liquid Paraffin	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lung Syrup	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Milk of Magnesia	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mouth and Throat Tablets	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Elixir	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Tabs.	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pastilles	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	1
Scalp Medication	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Teething Jelly	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tonic Syrup	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vitamin Syrup, Children's	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Water Sterilising Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	54	261	16	331	1	14	15	30

ACTION TAKEN REGARDING UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Of the 30 samples adversely commented on by the Public Analyst 8 were thought not to be contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act. The remaining were dealt with as follows:—

Fruit Drinks (3 Samples):	Withdrawn from sale.
Milk:	Retailers attention drawn to Analyst's findings.
Sandwich Spread (2 Samples):	Manufacturers attention drawn to Analyst's findings.
Gripe Water:	Manufacturers attention drawn to Analyst's findings.
Beef Spread:	Manufacturer advised to change type of container.
Kola Flavoured Drink:	Warning letter to manufacturers.
Bread:	Warning letter to bakers.
Lemonade:	Warning letter to manufacturers.
White Bread:	Warning letter to bakers.
Saccharin Tablets:	Remaining stock in shop examined, and old stock withdrawn.
Pastilles:	Manufacturers checking stock rotation on distribution line.
Bread:	Bakery prosecuted, fined £20 plus £3 costs.
Pork Sausages:	Retailer instructed to display preservative notice.
Foreign Matter in Milk:	Dairy prosecuted, fined £15 plus £5 costs.
Figs:	Attention of importers drawn to Analyst's findings.
Foreign Matter in Milk:	Dairy prosecuted, fined £20 plus £3 costs.
Full Cream Condensed Milk:	Old stock, withdrawn from sale.
Pork Sausages (2 Samples):	Manufacturer prosecuted, fined £25 plus £8 costs.

